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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,043	03/19/2004	Tetsuro Suzuki	250754US0	9542

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EXAMINER

GOODROW, JOHN L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1756

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.
2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1, 17, 32, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kikuchi et al [6416915]. Applicants' invention is directed to a photoconductor, process of forming an image using the photoconductor an apparatus having the photoconductor and a cartridge having the photoconductor. The photoconductor has a cross-linked surface layer with a known physical property that is dependent upon the composition of the cross-linked layer claim1 or a thickness claim 17 in which the cross-linked resin is a cured tri- or more functional radical polymerizable monomer. Kikuchi et al teaches an electrophotographic photosensitive member having a photoconductor a process cartridge and apparatus. The photosensitive layer has excellent durability formed by a hole-transporting compound having at least two chain polymerization function groups. The photosensitive member may assume any structure-layered form such as charge generating layer and charge transport. The protective layer

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can be on the generating layer or the transport layer note Col. 126. The surface layer has improved durability with the cured tri or more functional radical polymerizable monomer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al [6372397] in view of Kashimura et al [5374494] and Uematsu et al [6180303].

Maruyama et al teaches an electrophotographic photosensitive member and cartridge and apparatus having a resin obtained by radiation curing of a compound having a functional group that has unsaturation. A charge transport material can be used in combination with the functional compound in the surface of the photosensitive member note Col. 4 lines 40-60. The functional compound can be a polyfunctional compound having two or more functional groups. To improve the durability is improved by the use of a polyfunctional compound particularly those having at least three functional groups per molecule. Note Col.6 lines 10-20. Durability and hardness are related by Kashimura in which high density of the functional groups improves the hardness note Col.6 lines 10-25. The photosensitive member has a surface layer of high hardness, high

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resistance to abrasion and scratching and high durability note Col. 2 lines 40-50.

Uematsu et al further teaches the functional groups used by the skilled artisan in the making of an electrophotographic photosensitive member, cartridge and apparatus. The two or more chain polymerizing functional groups are taught in Col 4 line 5- Col. 10 line 45. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention with a reasonable expectation of success to use the number of functional groups and their composition that can be crossed linked to improve the properties of a layer in an electrophotographic member such as its hardness.

Double Patenting

5. Claims 1-37 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/804030. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both claim the use of a layer with polyfunctional groups. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

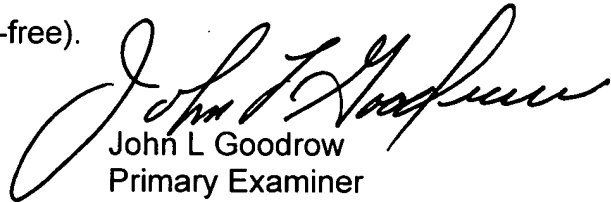
A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L. Goodrow whose telephone number is 571-272-1384. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F. Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John L. Goodrow
Primary Examiner
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